SI. No.	Satellite	Life Span
29.	INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE (still (IRS-1D) 3	More than 3 years operating) Mission Life : Years.
30.	INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE operat- (IRS-P4) 5	About 1 Year (still ing) Mission Life : Years.

Danger to the Country's Security

† 617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that American companies have free access to vital organisation like atomic and defence organisations in the name of satellite imaging;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has endangered the security of the country; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)i (a) and (b) No, Sir. American Companies have only access to take imagery from Outer Space, which is beyond our sovereign air space.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Imaging capabilities from space and the consequent availability' of such information by other countries has already been a factor, which was reckoned in our security planning. Government has also been aware of the worldwide commercial remote sensing developments and has taken measures to regulate the acquisition and distribution of data within the country. In addition, Government has also taken steps to further enhance our own space remote sensing capabilities.

Satellite system for private investment

618. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open up the satellite system for private investment;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.